

Serial No.: 10/010,721

Examiner: A. Psitos

Title: RELIEF DIFFRACTION GRATING BODY, AND OPTICAL PICK-UP AND OPTICAL INFORMATION APPARATUS
USING THE SAME

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) An optical pick-up, comprising:

a diffraction grating body, comprising a base material, and a relief diffraction grating formed on the base material, wherein

the diffraction grating body is formed of a single base material, and the refractive index n1 of the single base material is 1.9 or more,

the diffraction grating is formed of a concave portion and a convex portion having rectangular shaped cross sections, and the level difference h between the concave portion and the convex portion satisfies the following relationship:

Serial No.: 10/010,721

Examiner: A. Psitos

Title: RELIEF DIFFRACTION GRATING BODY, AND OPTICAL PICK-UP AND OPTICAL INFORMATION APPARATUS USING THE SAME

$$h = \lambda_1 / (n_1 - 1)$$

and the difference in an optical path between the concave portion and the convex portion is set to correspond to one wavelength with respect to the wavelength λ_1 , and

a material of the single base material is at least one material selected from the group consisting of Ta_2O_5 , TiO₂, ZrO_2 , Nb_2O_3 , ZnS , $LiNbO_3$ and $LiTaO_3$;

a first semiconductor laser light source for emitting a light beam with wavelength λ_1 ;

a second semiconductor laser light source for emitting a light beam with wavelength λ_2 ;

an optical system having an optical disk, the optical system for receiving the light beam with wavelength λ_1 and the light beam with wavelength λ_2 and converging the light beam onto a microspot on the optical disk;

a diffraction means provided as a separate element from the diffraction grating body, the diffraction means being arranged for diffracting a light beam reflected from the optical disk;

and

a photodetector having a photo detecting portion for receiving the diffracted light diffracted by the diffraction means to output electrical signals in accordance with the amount of the diffracted light; wherein

the diffraction grating body receives the light beam with wavelength λ_2 and transmits a main beam and generates sub-beams that are \pm first order diffracted light, and

the photo detecting portion comprises a photo detecting portion PD0 for receiving a + first order diffracted light from the diffraction means, and a distance d1 between the center of the photo detecting portion PD0 and the light emitting spot of the first

Serial No.: 10/010,721

Examiner: A. Psitos

Title: RELIEF DIFFRACTION GRATING BODY, AND OPTICAL PICK-UP AND OPTICAL INFORMATION APPARATUS USING THE SAME

semiconductor laser light source and a distance d2 between the center of the photo detecting portion PD0 and the light emitting spot of the second semiconductor laser light source substantially satisfy the following relationship:

$$\lambda_1/\lambda_2 = d_1/d_2.$$

17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) The optical pick-up according to claim 16, wherein the diffraction grating body, the semiconductor laser and the photodetector are integrated into one package.

19. (currently amended) An optical information apparatus, comprising:

an optical pick-up, comprising:

a diffraction grating body, comprising a base material, and a relief diffraction grating formed on the base material, wherein the diffraction grating body is formed of a single base material, and the refractive index n_1 of the single base material is 1.9 or more, the diffraction grating is formed of a concave portion and a convex portion having rectangular shaped cross sections, and the level difference h between the concave portion and the convex portion satisfies the following relationship:

$$h = \lambda_1 / (n_1 - 1)$$

and the difference in an optical path between the concave portion and the convex portion is set to correspond to one wavelength with respect to the wavelength λ_1 , and

a material of the single base material is at least one material selected from the group consisting of Ta_2O_5 , TiO_2 , ZrO_2 , Nb_2O_5 , ZnS , $LiNbO_3$ and $LiTaO_3$;

a first semiconductor laser light source for emitting a light beam with wavelength λ_1 ;

Serial No.: 10/010,721

Examiner: A. Psitos

Title: RELIEF DIFFRACTION GRATING BODY, AND OPTICAL PICK-UP AND OPTICAL INFORMATION APPARATUS USING THE SAME

a second semiconductor laser light source for emitting a light beam with wavelength λ_2 ;

an optical system having an optical disk, the optical system for receiving the light beam with wavelength λ_1 and the light beam with wavelength λ_2 and converging the light beams onto a microspot on the optical disk;

a diffraction means provided as a separate element from the diffraction grating body, the diffraction means being arranged for diffracting a light beam reflected from the optical disk;

a photodetector having a photo detecting portion for receiving the diffracted light diffracted by the diffraction means to output electrical signals in accordance with the amount of the diffracted light; wherein

the diffraction grating body receives the light beam with wavelength λ_2 and transmits a main beam and generates sub-beams that are \pm first order diffracted light, and

the photo detecting portion comprises a photo detecting portion PD0 for receiving a + first order diffracted light from the diffraction means, and a distance d1 between the center of the photo detecting portion PD0 and the light emitting spot of the first semiconductor laser light source and a distance d2 between the center of the photo detecting portion PD0 and the light emitting spot of the second semiconductor laser light source substantially satisfy the following relationship:

$$\lambda_1/\lambda_2 = d1/d2;$$

a focusing control means for focusing the light beams on the optical disk;

a tracking control means for tracking the light beams on the optical disk; and

Serial No.: 10/010,721

Examiner: A. Psitos

Title: RELIEF DIFFRACTION GRATING BODY, AND OPTICAL PICK-UP AND OPTICAL INFORMATION APPARATUS USING THE SAME

an information signal detecting means for detecting the output electrical signals;

and further comprising:

a moving means for moving the optical pick-up; and

a rotating means for rotating the optical disk.